

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10, 11-13 have been amended. No new matter has been presented.

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10, 12 and 13 have been indicated as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, as appropriate, these claims have been amended into independent form. It is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10, 12 and 13 are now in allowable condition.

Claims 1-15 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Browning et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,652,072, in view of Tamura et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,183,066. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of review and only as an example, independent claim 11 sets forth:

"A flexible printed circuit board connected to a printer head, comprising:
a voltage connection line, of a plurality of voltage connection lines, supplying voltage to a first contact on the printer head; and
a grounding connection line, of a plurality of grounding connection lines, providing grounding to a second contact on the printer head;
wherein the grounding connection line is divided into at least two portions, both to connect to the second contact, and which are provided in parallel along both sides of the voltage connection line, separated from the voltage connection line by a predetermined distance."

Independent claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the claimed grounding connection line, even though divided into two portions, still connects to the claimed second contact, similarly to the voltage connection line connecting to the first contact. Independent claim 1 has been amended in a similar manner, with differing scope and breadth.

Thus, the grounding connection line is divided into two portions that later connect to a second contact.

The Office Action has set forward that Browning et al. discloses all the claimed features except for the claimed dividing of the grounding connection line, which the Office Action relies upon Tamura et al. to disclose.

It is respectfully submitted that Tamura et al., as well as the combination of Browning et al. and Tamura et al., fail to disclose or suggest the above dividing of the grounding connection, and connection to the second contact, while the divided portions being parallel along both sides of the voltage connection line, which similarly connects to the first contact.

Conversely to the claimed arrangement, Tamura et al. sets forth a common wiring portion 3, and individual wiring portions 4. Each wiring portion 4 connects to a separate heater, heaters 2a or 2b.

Tamura et al. uses the language "separated," but it is believed that this language is not referring to the separation of a singular line into two distinct lines, but rather two separate lines. See FIG. 2 of Tamura et al.

As further illustrated in FIG. 4, each "separate" line 4 connects to an individual heater 2, while common wiring portion 3 connects multiple heaters.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that regardless of which of separated lines 4 or common wiring portion 3 is interpreted as reading on the claimed voltage connection line or grounding connection line, neither interpretation discloses the claimed arrangement of the grounding connection line being divided, to be parallel aside both sides of the voltage connection line, while still connecting to the same second contact.

Rather, in Tamura et al., with the only apparent closest interpretation would seem to be separate lines 4 corresponding to the grounding connection line and the common wiring portion 3 corresponding to the voltage connection line, the two lines 4 do not connect to the same heater and they are not divided, as claimed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that there is no support or suggestion in the record for the corresponding claimed invention, either in Browning et al. or Tamura et al., alone or in combination.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14, and 15 be withdrawn and claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14, and 15 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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